

The political Developments

And

Administrative organizations in Diyala

1917 – 1932

A historical study

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By

Sa' ad Mohamad Ali Hussein

Supervised by

Assist. Prof . Dr. Mohamad As four salmaan ,

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Abstract

Diyala is considered an important and vital area in the history of Iraq through historical ages it forms an important strategic position for Iraq . there was a great and deep – rooted civilization emerged in Diyala which was called “ Ashnona kingdom civilization “ , in which the law of Ashnona kingdom was discovered . it contained sixty . one articles dealt with the different affairs of life .

The towns of Diyala had obvious importance for being the route of trade caravans directed toward Iran through Khurasan route . The towns of Diyala were inhabited by old families including Arab , Kurdish , and Turkish tribes . They lived together peacefully and lovingly through all the ages with common history , common land , and common destiny . In Diyala there is a variety in human , material , agricultural . and oil wealth . The soil of Diyala is fertile ; it includes the level land , highland , and mountain . its waters are abundant . So , Diyala was and still is an attractive place visited by the Iraqis .

Diyala witnessed a noticeable development in the Ottoman era . in the domain of offering services for people , the era of Al – wali Madhat pasha (1869-1872) was distinguished in Diyala . Al- wali

took care of agricultural lands , so he encouraged the farmers to cultivate the land and settle in it He also paid attention to irrigation means .

AL – wali was also interested in the trade routes . The route khurasaan . khanaqeen , Qasr – shireen , karmanshaat and overseas areas was the most important land trade route with Iran and the other countries . The ottoman government was interested in the boundaries with khanaqeen for being an important trade centre .

The domain of mail and telegraph was also taken into account . Al-wali established branches for the telegraph in Baqube , khanaqeen , Minndili , sharabaan (AL- Muqdadia) , and Daltawa (AL-khalis) to achieve the contact between Baghdad and these towns .

AL- wali also paid his attention to the domain of prospect for oil . He formed many commissions to research for oil in the lands extending from Minndili to Shahra zoor . The required tools were imported to extract oil from khanaqeen after proving its existence in large quantities . In 1911 , the foundation of an oil refinery in Baquba was carried out to refine the oil extracted from the wells of khanaqeen . The tools for the refinery were imported but they arrived after the removal of AL- wali .

Many municipal offices were established in Diyala in 1882 , Baquba municipality was founded . It paid attention to offering services to the citizens in the domain of education , many primary schools were opened in the ottoman era in 1887 , a primary school was opened in khanaqeen and in 1898 a primary school was opened in Baquba . The opening of other schools followed in succession in the other towns of Diyala .

Concerning the military system , the police forces were available in Diyala in general , and the ottoman Army units were spread in Diyala . In 1907 , Many military units spread in khurasaan , khanaqeen , Minndili , and Daltawa . In spite of the presence of the ottoman forces in Diyala , they could not confront the British forces' attack on the towns of Diyala . The military British forces began their military operations to occupy Iraq since the twelfth of March 1917 , then the British forces could expel the ottoman forces completely from the towns of Diyala at the end of 1918 , and they could control the area .

The coercive and savage practices of British forces against the citizens of Diyala made the citizens stand together to confront the occupied forces .

They participated with the other Iraqis in the revolution against the occupier . Thus the twentieth revolution in Diyala was a bright sign in the history of Diyala . The revolutionists formed many local governments in many towns in Diyala . Many notables in Diyala participated in the revolution . The tribes which were present in Diyala had a great role in the revolution against the British which vexed the British forces . so , they used all the means to control Diyala again .

They attacked the towns of Diyala , killed the children , women . old people ; and they destroyed the houses . The revolution did not achieve its military goals as the British forces re – occupied the towns of Diyala . yet , this revolution was able to unify Iraqi people in its different sects and nationalities . it could finish a;; the probabilities of the direct colonialism . it divided the provisional Iraqi government since 1920 administratively into ten provinces (alwiya) and Diyala is one of these provinces .

Diyala citizens had a noticeable role in the coronation of the prince faisal bin Al- Hussein as a king for Iraq . They sent letters of allegiance to support the the prince to be the king for Iraq , since the beginning of the parliamentary life in Iraq , the parliamentarians of Diyala participated in the founding Iraqi council which started its sessions on the twenty – fourth of March 1924. The parliamentarians of Diyala also participated in the Iraqi parliament since 1925 . They participated in the discussions which held in the parliament council concerning Iraq affairs .

Thus , Diyala witnessed a noticeable development in the political and administrative aspects within the period set in the research .